## SPECIAL FEATURE

5 China–India Rivalry: The Saga of Game Changers  
by P S SURYANARAYANA

China and India engaged in military brinkmanship since mid-2020 amid the global coronavirus pandemic. The first new game changer is India’s attempt since August 2019 to internalise the Kashmir issue (which has also involved Pakistan since 1947). The second is China’s two-step game changer (i) in refusing to recognise India’s new Union Territory of Ladakh; and (ii) in reactivating the dormant Kashmir issue at the UNSC in 2019 and 2020.

19 Sino–Indian Conflict: Foreign Policy Options for the Smaller South Asian States  
by Chulanee ATTANAYAKE

The impact of Sino–Indian competition on the smaller South Asian countries’ foreign policy is not a new phenomenon. Adopting a neutral policy would be the best option to avoid being caught in crossfire between China and India. They also have another option, i.e. the alliance shelter strategy, which enables them to reduce their social, economic or political vulnerability through joining international organisations.

## ESSAYS

36 Battling over Social Media: Public Protest and State Responses to Dr Li Wenliang’s Death in China  
by LAI Hongyi

The death of Dr Li Wenliang, the whistle-blower who warned of the COVID-19 outbreak in China, suggests that the interaction between society and the authoritarian state on the internet is highly dynamic and complex. The state is capable of internet censorship to deflect public anger and advance its claim for competent governance and legitimacy in society.

49 South Korea’s Strategic Options amid the US–China Strategic Competition Under the Biden Administration  
by PARK Hahnkyu and YANG Chun Hee

Amid the strategic competition of the two great powers, South Korea should strengthen its alliance with the United States; strive to maintain a cooperative relationship with China; and strengthen its middle-power diplomacy in order to enhance its autonomy. It should further its cooperation with the ASEAN countries and India through the New Southern Policy.
Singapore’s maintenance of good and stable ties with China and the United States does not imply that disagreements do not exist among them. Singapore has always been conscientious of adhering to certain principles such as the rule of law, transparency and predictability in managing its differences with the great powers. In short, Singapore puts national interest as its foremost consideration in conducting its foreign policy.

As the Biden administration looks to meet the China challenge while recovering from the economic and social disruptions of the global pandemic, its priority will not be the “Thucydides trap”. Rather, it will attempt to overcome the “Trump trap”: committing national own goals with populist and personalist politics. It is time for leadership that makes America strategic again.

While Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga mostly inherited foreign affairs legacies from his predecessor, there were many defining changes that surprised Japan observers. Japan’s China policy has shifted towards one that is more responsive to the United States’ increasingly competitive and even antagonist approach towards China.

Distrust of China has permeated throughout the Turnbull and Morrison conservative governments since 2015. A new Cold War between China and the United States may see the emergence of spheres of influence that would mean Australia has to choose between the two. A reset, therefore, will require Australia to move towards a genuine middle power role working in coalition with fellow middle powers in the Asia-Pacific.